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ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EB-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00
	OIC-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	FMPC-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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P 192153Z OCT 04
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8065
 INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
 HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 003219

NSC FOR CBARTON
 USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2014
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, KJUS, VE
 SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN PROSECUTOR INVESTIGATES 400 FOR
 "REBELLION"

Classified By: cda stephen g. mcfarland FOR REASON 1.4 (d)

 SUMMARY

1. (U) Venezuelan prosecutor Danilo Anderson took testimony from three media executives at the beginning of October as part of his investigation into the events of April 12-13, 2002. Anderson announced on September 17 that he was reopening the investigation of persons who had supported the interim government of Pedro Carmona. Anderson announced the investigation would involve some 400 people associated with the "Carmona Decree," which dissolved the GOV in April 2002. In addition to those that signed the decree, Anderson is targeting persons known to be present in Miraflores Palace at the time, having "signed in" or been caught on videotape. Sumate's Maria Corina Machado and Zulia Governor Manuel Rosales are perhaps the most prominent persons on the list. End Summary.

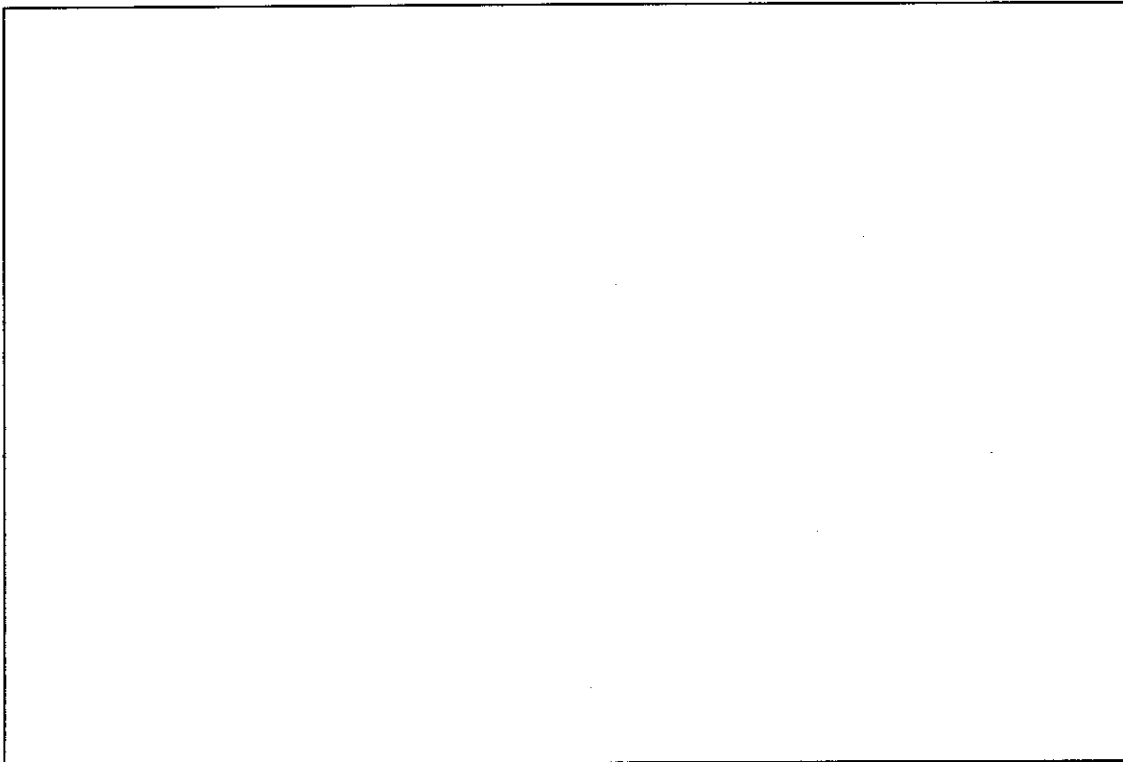
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Case Reopened

2. (U) On September 17 prosecutor Danilo Anderson announced that Attorney General Isaias Rodriguez had ordered him to reopen the investigation into the events of April 12, 2002 surrounding the installation of the Carmona government. He told reporters he would investigate those people named as ministers in Carmona's government, those who signed the "Carmona Decree" and those who were present at Miraflores during Carmona's swearing in.

Background



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400 Blows

3. (U) On September 30 Anderson announced that he expected to call 400 persons to testify, possibly as suspects, over the course of two months. He said he intended to investigate Carmona's ministers first, then those who signed the decree publicly, then those who signed privately after Carmona was

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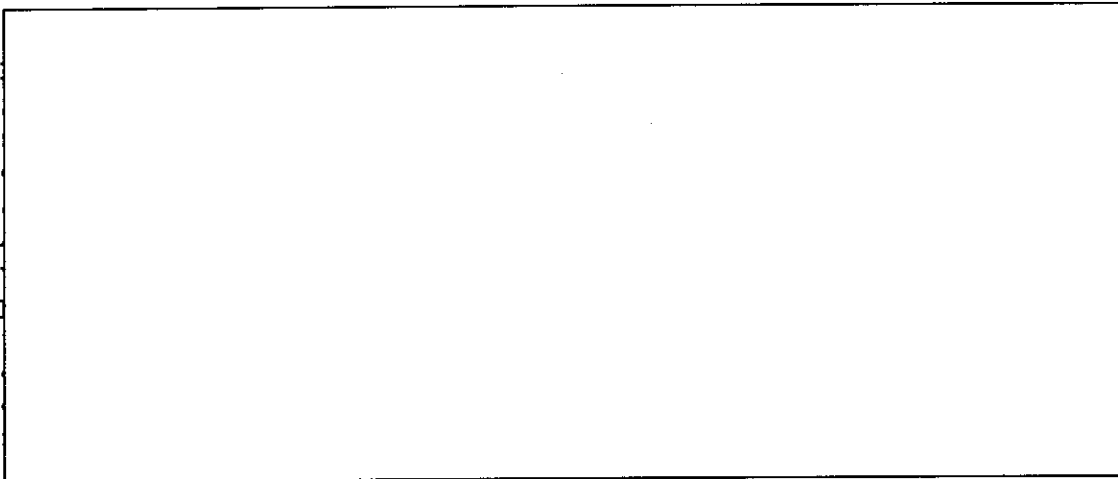
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sworn in, and finally those who were present at Miraflores during Carmona's swearing in ceremony as president. For this last group, Anderson plans to use videos to identify people. Anderson told the press that the investigation was beginning from the assumption that the crime committed was civil rebellion. Depending on the level of complicity, suspects might be charged as author, co-author, participant or accomplice. Anderson said he would not call Gen. Lucas Rincon, who announced Chavez' resignation, or the Vice President at the time, Diosdado Cabello, to testify.

Media Execs Testify

4. (U) Globovision Director General Alberto Ravell testified before prosecutor Danilo Anderson on October 4, about an alleged meeting on April 13, 2002, between interim president Pedro Carmona and media executives, allegedly to design the interim government's communication policy. Anderson told reporters that he had learned of the meeting from testimony by Rafael Arreaza, Carmona's Health Minister. Anderson also summoned Globovision President Guillermo Zuloaga on October 5, Venevision President Victor Ferrer on October 7, and Venevision owner Gustavo Cisneros on October 8. The media executives told reporters that the meeting with Carmona was public, that they had not met to design Carmona's communication policy, and that they had not signed the decree. Some noted that the allegation did not make sense because as independent media their role is not to advise a government on a communication strategy.

Fear Abounds

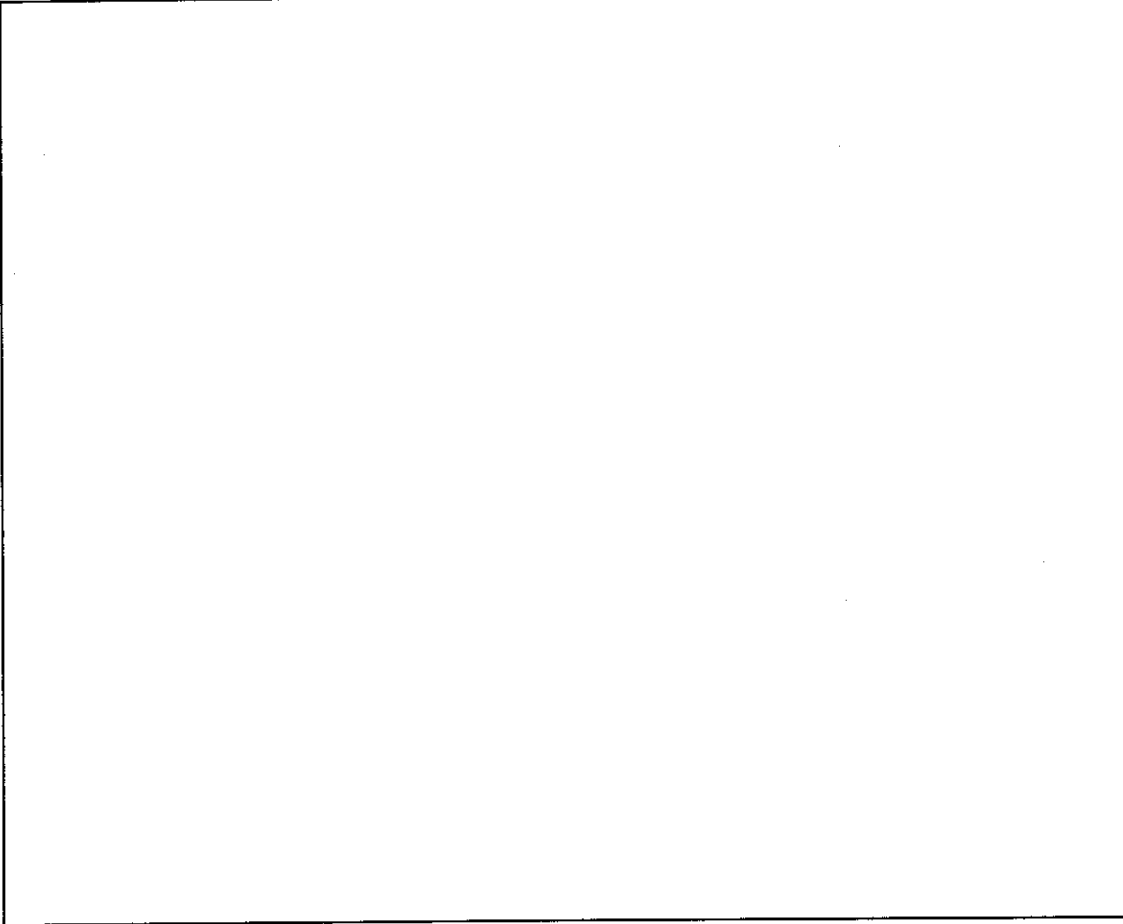


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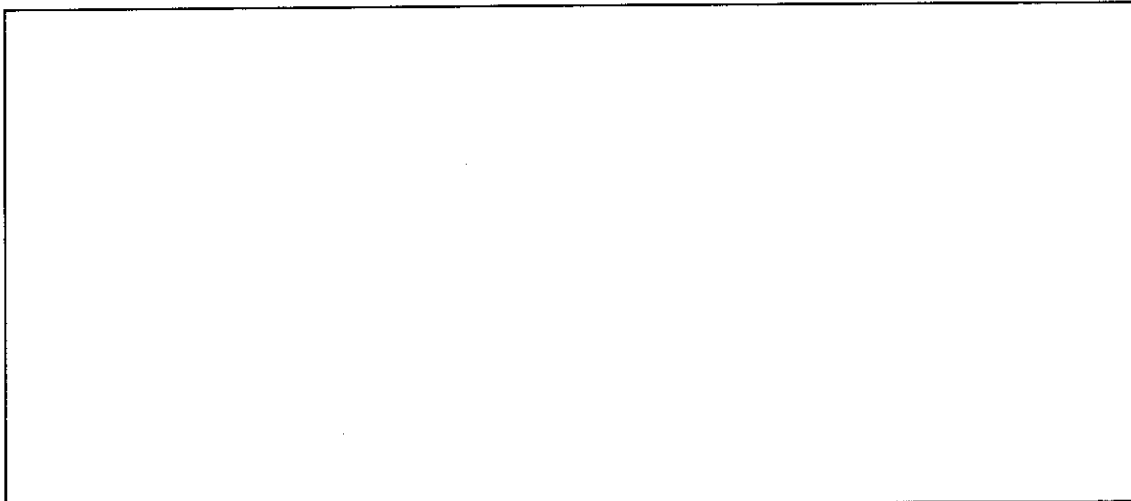
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Comment

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McFarland

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